

In the end, I believe there are more appropriate responses Congress should pursue if current penalties for environmental wrongdoers are insufficient, and I believe expedited, targeted legislation of this nature is likely to create unintended consequences which outweigh any positive value it may add to our environmental law matrix.

Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.,
United States Senator.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. NACWA is a dynamic national organization, involved in all facets of water quality protection. As a key stakeholder in the legislative, regulatory, and legal arenas, NACWA has built credible collaborative relationships with Members of Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal courts and other governmental bodies.

The emergence of NACWA as a nationally recognized leader in environmental policy and a sought-after technical resource on water quality and ecosystem protection issues has paralleled the maturation of one of the Nation's most successful environmental laws—the Clean Water Act. NACWA was established in 1970 by a group of individuals representing 22 large municipal sewerage agencies to secure Federal funding for municipal wastewater treatment and serve as a forum to discuss the emerging national interest in improving the quality of the Nation's waters. Based upon the shared goal of effectively representing the interests and priorities of public clean water agencies and the communities they serve, they formed NACWA.

Over the past 40 years, NACWA has expanded its member base and issue platform. It has changed its name, replacing the word "sewerage" with "clean water" to better reflect the end-product of its members' treatment services—clean water. The organization also partners with diverse stakeholders while always advocating for sound science in advancing water quality protection. Today, as the leading clean water association, NACWA represents nearly 300 member organizations.

Recent years have reflected heightened involvement for the association in a broadening array of complex 21st century water quality issues, including green infrastructure, climate change, watershed-based approaches, and clean water funding and financing. As chairman of the Senate's Water and Wildlife Subcommittee, under the Environment and Public Works Committee, I am in a good position to observe that NACWA has met the goal that its founders established 40 years ago. NACWA con-

tinues to pursue every opportunity to develop and implement sound water quality policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate NACWA on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. This committee has relied on NACWA's strategic input for decades and will undoubtedly continue to do so as we shape the course of environmental protection for our Nation's waters in the decades to come.●

REMEMBERING SYL METZGER

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, last week I received notice from a North Dakota constituent about a funeral that was held on Friday. The funeral was for Syl Metzger from Langdon, ND. Reading about the life of this extraordinary man reminded me again about how much we owe to people we seldom thank.

Syl Metzger was not a politician or a business executive or celebrity. But he was a hero. He was one of what Tom Brokaw called the "greatest generation." He was one of those young Americans who seven decades ago was called on by his country to put on a uniform, pick up a rifle, and wage the fight for freedom half way around the world.

Syl Metzger landed on the beaches of Normandy during the D-day invasion. He fought in the campaign in northern Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge. The fights that he and his fellow soldiers waged have become legendary.

Following the Second World War, all across our country those young soldiers returned home and lived down the street, up the block, or out on the farm, and seldom spoke of their experiences in World War II. They became the members of the community who you could count on to do things. They built homes, schools, and communities and became the glue that made America work. Because they knew the horrors of war and the pain of losing fellow soldiers in the battlefield, they perhaps more than any other Americans treasured the freedoms that they had risked their lives to save.

Now with the passage of time those young soldiers have become older Americans, in many cases reaching their ninth decade of life. Every day across this country, friends and neighbors gather in the sanctuary of a local church to say goodbye to a relative or an old friend. In many cases, only then do they remember and celebrate the heroic commitment of service to our country by those American patriots.

It was Syl Metzger's son who informed me of his father's death. I had met Syl Metzger only once last fall when he and a group of World War II veterans came to Washington, DC, on an Honor Flight to see the World War II Memorial. So our lives touched only briefly. But when his son sent me the e-mail about his funeral, it reminded me again that he and his fellow soldiers did things for our country that

touched all of our lives. Yet we seldom understand the magnitude of their sacrifice and the benefit of their courage that was a gift to all Americans.

God bless the memory of Syl Metzger and the rest of the "greatest generation." America says thank you.●

REMEMBERING FIRST SERGEANT NICK BACON

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life, service, and memory of 1SG Nick Bacon, U.S. Army (Ret.). First Sergeant Bacon, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from Arkansas, passed away July 17, 2010, at the age of 64. His life will be remembered not just for his heroic military service, which earned him the prestigious Medal of Honor, but also for his work on behalf of veterans in Arkansas and across this Nation.

Narrowly surviving a helicopter crash in his first tour of duty, then Staff Sergeant Bacon volunteered for a second tour of duty in Vietnam; this time he was leading a squad with the 1st Platoon of B Company of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. On August 26, 1968, in an operation west of Tam Ky, Staff Sergeant Bacon and Company B drew heavy resistance from enemy forces. In the ensuing action, Bacon led two platoons in stifling the enemy assault, singlehandedly killing multiple enemy soldiers, destroying an antitank weapon, and directing fire on enemy positions as Company B rescued multiple soldiers trapped to the front.

Due to these brave actions, President Nixon awarded Bacon the Medal of Honor on November 24, 1969. The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the U.S. Government. It is reserved for those members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States." That definition most certainly fits the heroism that Nick Bacon, then a staff sergeant, took the night of August 26, 1968.

Nicky Daniel Bacon was born November 25, 1945, in Caraway, AR. Following his family's move to Arizona, he joined the army to escape the difficulties of farm labor. He forged his mother's signature so that he could join the army at age 17. He served in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1984, retiring at the rank of first sergeant.

First Sergeant Bacon returned home to Arkansas in 1990, where he continued to seek opportunities to serve his community, particularly the men and women of the U.S. military. He was appointed director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs in 1993 and was essential to the development of the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery, the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery Beautification Foundation and the founding of the Arkansas Veterans' Coalition.